

1     **CLAIMS**

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3     1.    A prosthesis for repair or to resist the  
4     formation of an abdominal wall hernia comprising at  
5     least an outer surface and an inner surface wherein  
6     the inner surface forms at least one channel through  
7     which, in use, an anatomical structure may pass when  
8     the prosthesis is in place in the body without  
9     substantial compression of said anatomical  
10    structure.

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12    2.    The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1 of width  
13    in the range 0.5 cm to 7 cm.

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15    3.    The prosthesis as claimed in claim 1 or 2 of  
16    longitudinal length in the range 1 to 5 cm.

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18    4.    The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
19    claim wherein the channel is of dimensions in the  
20    range 0.5 cm to 3 cm in width and depth.

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22    5.    The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
23    claim wherein the inner surface defines a scalloped  
24    channel.

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26    6.    The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
27    claim wherein the channel of the prosthesis is sized  
28    such that in use an anatomical structure may pass,  
29    when the prosthesis is in place in the body, the  
30    width of the anatomical structure being compressed  
31    less than 70%.

32

1     7.     The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
2     claim wherein the prosthesis has a truncated conical  
3     shape.

4  
5     8.     The prosthesis as claimed in claim 7 wherein  
6     the diameter of the truncated conical shaped  
7     prosthesis at the widest end of the prosthesis is in  
8     the range 0.5 cm to 7 cm and the diameter of the  
9     narrowest end is in the range 0.5 cm to 4 cm.

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11    9.     The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
12    claim wherein the prosthesis further comprises at  
13    least one flange which extends from the prosthesis.

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15    10.    The prosthesis as claimed in any preceding  
16    claim wherein the flange is a portion of synthetic  
17    mesh.

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19    11.    Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any  
20    preceding claim to repair or to resist the formation  
21    of an abdominal hernia.

22  
23    12.    Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any of claims  
24    1 to 10 to repair or to resist the formation of an  
25    inguinal hernia, the channel being sized to receive  
26    a spermatic cord without substantial compression of  
27    the spermatic cord.

28  
29    13.    Use of a prosthesis as claimed in any of claims  
30    1 to 10 to repair or to resist the formation of  
31    femoral hernia the channel being sized to receive a  
32    femoral vein.

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2 14. A kit including a prosthesis according to any  
3 one of claims 1 to 10 and synthetic mesh to overlay  
4 the prosthesis.

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6 15. A method for treating hernia comprising the  
7 steps

- 8 - exposing the hernia defect
- 9 - providing a prosthesis wholly in the extra
- 10 peritoneal compartment of the abdominal wall
- 11 to fill the defect but which provides a
- 12 relatively pressure free passage of an
- 13 anatomical structure past the prosthesis.

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15 16. The method of claim 15 wherein the method is for  
16 treatment of inguinal or femoral hernia.

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18 17. The method of claims 15 or 16 wherein the  
19 prosthesis provided to fill the defect is the  
20 prosthesis of any of claims 1 to 10.